

Indiana State Board of Massage Therapy

May 2012: Human Trafficking Edition



Board Members:

Deborah Ellis, CMT, Chair
Ann Botka, CMT, Vice-Chair
Barbara Lis, CMT, Member
Christopher Johnson, Consumer Member

Administrative Staff:

Tasha Coleman, Director
Andre Phillips, Asst Director
Lorrie Ruble, Case Manager
Karen Taulman, Case Manager
Kathy Dishman, Case Manager

Contact Us:

402 W. Washington Street, Room W072
Indianapolis, IN 46204
Office hours: 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
(317) 234-2051 (office)
(317) 233-4236 (fax)
pla6@pla.in.gov
www.in.gov/pla/hfa.htm

2012 Meeting Dates/locations:

- June 11 (CC1)
- August 6
- October 15

Please note that meeting dates are subject to change or may be cancelled due to lack of business. Board meetings are held in the Indiana Government Center South, 402 West Washington Street, Indianapolis, Indiana 46204. All meetings will be held in Conference Room W064 of the Indiana Professional Licensing Agency (unless otherwise indicated).

Newsletter Schedule

- February
- May
- August
- November

Helpful Links:

FSMTB: <http://www.fsmtb.org>
AMTA Indiana: <http://www.amtaindiana.org>

Human Trafficking in our Backyard

By: Nicole Baldonado
Consumer Protection Division
Indiana Office of Attorney General

Human trafficking is the fastest growing and second largest criminal industry in the world,¹ and nearly 300,000 U.S. children are at risk for sexual exploitation, which includes sex trafficking.² Shockingly, the average age that minors in the U.S. are pulled into commercial sex is 12-14.³ Statistics and experience from agencies involved in anti-trafficking demonstrate that the problem of trafficking—both labor and sex—has been found in local communities throughout Indiana.

How does this relate to massage therapists? According to Polaris Project, a national human trafficking organization, there are more than 5,000 brothels in the U.S. that are disguised as massage parlors.⁴ In these brothels, women may be forced to have sex with six to 10 men per day, seven days a week, for 16-17 hours at a time. Because of the potential for massage therapists to come in contact with trafficking victims, it is important for them to learn how to recognize a victim and how to report potential trafficking situations.

What exactly is human trafficking? Sex trafficking is defined under federal law as a commercial sex act induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person induced is under 18 years of age.⁵ In the state of Indiana, anyone induced in commercial sex who is under the age of 16⁶ is considered a victim of trafficking.⁷ Labor trafficking is the “recruitment,

¹ Administration for Children & Families, U.S. DEPT. OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES, <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/trafficking/about/index.html> (last visited Jan. 13, 2012).

² *Testimony of Ernie Allen* (July, 2010), NATIONAL CENTER FOR MISSING & EXPLOITED CHILDREN, available at www.missingkids.com/missingkids/servlet/NewsEventServlet?LanguageCountry=en_US&PageId=4312.

³ *Child Prostitution*, U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE, CEOS, <http://www.justice.gov/criminal/ceos/prostitution.html> (last visited Jan. 13, 2012).

⁴ POLARIS PROJECT, <http://www.polarisproject.org/human-trafficking/sex-trafficking-in-the-us/massage-parlors> (last visited Apr. 2, 2012).

⁵ Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000, Pub. L. No. 106-386 (2000), available at <http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/10492.pdf>.

⁶ The prosecutor does not have to prove force or threat of force when the victim is under 16.

⁷ Senate Enrolled Act 4, 117th G.A., 2nd Reg. Sess. (2012), available at <http://www.in.gov/legislative/bills/2012/SE/SE0004.1.html>.

Indiana State Board of Massage Therapy

May 2012: Human Trafficking Edition



harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for labor or services, through the use of force, fraud, or coercion for the purpose of...involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery."⁸

The United States is one of the highest countries of destination for sex trafficking victims.⁹ Our culture plays a strong part in society's acceptance of commercialized sex. Through popular movies, music, and advertisements, we glorify pimps, strippers, and prostitutes, leading us to the idea that commercial sex is normal and not dangerous. Unfortunately, this masks the truth that individuals caught up in commercial sex are often victims of a harmful and tragic crime.

Victims of human trafficking often come from vulnerable backgrounds, such as poverty, unemployment, childhood abuse, homelessness, and other situations leading to desperation. Often, they are coerced into their current situations, because traffickers lie to them about the work they will be doing. In cases of sex trafficking, victims may have been wooed into romantic relationships that later turned into the so-called "boyfriends" pimping them out for their own profit. Pimps (traffickers) usually have a strong physical and psychological hold on

the girls they "manage." They force girls to meet monetary quotas to avoid being beaten, and they may take all the money that victims make.¹⁰ Some pimps even brand girls with tattoos and other markings in order to demonstrate ownership of them.¹¹

Contrary to commonly believed myths, prostitution is not a victimless crime committed between two consenting adults. We have already seen the truth that the average age of girls brought into commercial sex is 12-14. Whether involving adults or minors, the risks of the commercial sex industry are so high that the average age of death among prostitutes is 34, and "...the *American Journal of Epidemiology* reported that prostitutes suffer a 'workplace homicide rate' 51 times higher than that of the next most dangerous occupation, working in a liquor store."¹² While in the commercial sex industry, women face considerable violence at the hands of both traffickers and those who purchase their "services." In one study, 82% of women in prostitution had been physically assaulted, 83% had been threatened with a weapon, 68% had been raped, and 84% reported current or past homelessness.¹³

This begs the question: if life in the commercial sex industry is so harmful, why don't people leave it? Often, traffickers threaten victims and their families if they try to escape. Also, they commonly lie to victims about their legal rights, and in cases of foreign-born victims, traffickers may threaten that they will be deported if they try to leave. In addition, despite the atrocities that victims face, their traffickers may have a strong psychological hold over them, resulting from the trauma they have experienced.

We have considered the devastation that human trafficking causes victims, but it also impacts our communities

¹⁰ *Human Trafficking FAQs, How is Pimping a Form of Sex Trafficking?*, Polaris Project, <http://www.polarisproject.org/human-trafficking/human-trafficking-faqs#How is pimping a form of sex trafficking?> (last visited Jan. 14, 2012).

¹¹ *Human Trafficking FAQs, How is Pimping a Form of Sex Trafficking?*, Polaris Project, <http://www.polarisproject.org/human-trafficking/human-trafficking-faqs#How is pimping a form of sex trafficking?> (last visited Jan. 14, 2012).

¹² Leslie Bennetts, *The John Next Door*, July 18, 2011, THE DAILY BEAST/NEWSWEEK, available at <http://www.thedailybeast.com/newsweek/2011/07/17/the-growing-demand-for-prostitution.html>.

¹³ Melissa Farley & Howard Barkan, *Prostitution, Violence Against Women, and Posttraumatic Stress Disorder*, 27 WOMEN & HEALTH 37-49 (1998), available at <http://www.prostitutionresearch.com/ProsViolPosttrauStress.html>.

⁸ Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000, Pub. L. No. 106-386 (2000), available at <http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/10492.pdf>.

⁹ *UN Highlights Human Trafficking*, Origin & Destination Countries, BBC News available at http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/in_depth/6497799.stm.

Indiana State Board of Massage Therapy

May 2012: Human Trafficking Edition



in extremely negative ways. In locations where the sex industry is prevalent, some of its effects include having streets littered with condoms and condom wrappers, risks of violence against women living in the area, parents fearing to send their children outside, and medical costs for prostitutes who are uninsured.¹⁴ It is our responsibility as community members to speak out against this crime and demand that it be stopped.

How can we do this? First, we need to report activity that we suspect could be human trafficking within the massage parlor arena. We should be educated on how to recognize signs of trafficking and what to do in those situations. A victim of human trafficking may appear to be under the control of someone else at all times, may have signs of physical abuse, and may seem extremely anxious or depressed. They may live and work in the same location and may not be free to leave as they wish. For these and other indicators of human trafficking, please visit the following webpage: <http://www.in.gov/attorneygeneral/2963.htm>.

If you believe that someone may be a potential victim, please call the National Human Trafficking Resource Center Hotline at 1-888-3737-888. If someone is in immediate danger, call 911.

Secondly, we must recognize that our society tolerates and even glorifies the commercial sex industry.

Consider the portrayal of strippers and prostitutes in movies, music, video games, and clothing. Also, the term *pimp* has come to be a common slang word that means “to improve something”. We must speak up about the truth that commercial sex is not a glamorous life, but one involving violence and cruelty.

Thirdly, we should point out that there is a connection between missing and exploited children and prostitution, stripping, and lap dancing. Risk factors for such children, like childhood abuse, make them extremely vulnerable to getting caught up in the sex industry. We should also commit to not being a part of that industry ourselves.

Finally, in order to stand up against human trafficking, we should be a part of cultural change. We should encourage that our youth be educated on topics like healthy relationships, self-identity, life skills, and others. We should support those organizations that serve victims of human trafficking, like The Julian Center and Exodus Refugee Immigration, Inc. Each of us can play an important role in bringing about a large-scale cultural change to fight the battle against human trafficking.

If your organization is interested in holding training on human trafficking, please visit the following webpage and make a request:

<http://www.indianaagainstrafficking.org/contact/>.

24-Hour Victim Assistance Hotline

1-800-928-6403

National Human Trafficking Resource Center Hotline

1-888-373-7888

The Julian Center

2011 North Meridian Street

Indianapolis, IN 46202

317-941-2200

www.juliancenter.org

Exodus Refugee Immigration, Inc.

1125 Brookside Ave., Suite C9

Indianapolis, IN 46202

317-921-0836

www.exodusrefugee.org

¹⁴ Donna Hughes, *Best Practices to Address the Demand Side of Sex Trafficking*, August, 2004, available at http://www.uri.edu/artsci/wms/hughes/demand_sex_trafficking.pdf